Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 AID-05 EB-07 INT-05 TRSE-00 FEA-01 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-13 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-07 SS-15 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 /101 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:TJCAROLAN:PDW APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER L/NEA:WRHODES AID/NE/CD:STAUBENBLATT (INFO) AID/NE/ME:NSWEET (INFO) NEA/IAI:XVUNOVIC (INFO)

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SENV, JO, SY

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN-SYRIAN AGREEMENT RE YARMOUK RIVER WATERS

REF: AMMAN 3216 (NOTAL)

1. WE ARE VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN RECEIVING TEXT OF JORDANIAN ROYAL DECREE (REFTEL) WHICH REPORTEDLY CONSTITUTES GOJ "LEGALIZATION" OF THE 1953 JORDANIAN-SYRIAN AGREEMENT RE UTILIZATION OF YARMOUK RIVER WATERS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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2. WE NOTE THAT THE 1953 AGREEMENT, AS DESCRIBED BY PROFESSOR BAXTER IN SECTION III-C OF ASIL'S DRAFT LEGAL STUDY OF WATER RIGHTS ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH JORDAN'S PROPOSED MAQARIN DAM-YARMOUK RIVER PROJECT, ACCORDS SYRIA CERTAIN HYDROELECTRIC AND WATER ALLOCATION RIGHTS IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH A SCHEME. WHILE WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO UNDER-

STAND BY THE JORDANIANS THAT THE SARG HAS SINCE WAIVED THESE RIGHTS IN INTEREST OF ALLOWING THE MAQARIN PROJECT TO GO FORWARD, WE WISH TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THIS UNDERSTANDING IS BORNE OUT IN THE RECENT JORDANIAN DECREE.

3. WE ALSO NOTE THAT BAXTER REPORTED THAT THE 1953 AGREEMENT IS DUE TO BE SUPERSEDED BY A NEW JORDANIAN-SYRIAN

AGREEMENT RE UTILIZATION OF YARMOUK RIVER WATERS. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO YOU CAN SUPPLY RE STATUS OF THIS NEW AGREEMENT AND ITS CONTENTS. VANCE

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